

# SOCIAL ACTION NEWS-LETTER

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## Committee on Ministerial Exemption Formed

Faced with an acute shortage of young men preparing for the Christian ministry and by an increasing number of cases where theological students and pre-theological students are having difficulty in securing the deferments and classification provided by law, President Clarence E. Lemmon, of the International Convention, has set up a Committee on Ministerial Exemption, to which cases of this sort can be referred. The committee is composed of Dr. Charles Lynn Pyatt, dean of the College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky, Dr. W. Barnett Blakemore, Jr., of the Disciples Divinity House, Chicago, Illinois, Dr. Frederick D. Kershner, dean of Butler School of Religion, Dr. John L. Davis, executive secretary of the Board of Higher Education, and James A. Crain, who will serve as secretary of the committee.

At a meeting of the committee held in Indianapolis on November 20, Mr. Crain reported on typical cases which had come up for action. In certain instances local draft boards have refused to give ministers actively engaged in the ministry the IV-D classification provided by the Selective Service law. Such cases have been appealed to the President and have usually been given the proper classification. A second type of case is that of theological students whose standing as students for the ministry may not be recognized by local draft boards. In some instances this may be due to individual prejudice and in others to a lack of understanding of the provisions of the law. In one case now pending, a young man, an ordained minister and studying in one of our colleges and serving as pastor of a church, has been classified I-A. This case has been appealed with every prospect of securing the proper classification. A third type of case is that of the pre-theological student. While the Selective Service law makes no provision for exemption of students for the Christian ministry unless they are enrolled in a recognized seminary or college for the training of ministers, Selective Service Regulations provide that a young man enrolled in a recognized college or university, pursuing courses leading to theology or other professional training, may be given deferment. He must show that he is doing work that will enable him to complete his pre-professional training within 24 months from the time the declaration is made, and must submit statements both from the school in which he is enrolled and from the seminary in which he expects to take his theological training showing, in the first case, that if he continues his work he will complete his course within 24 months, and in the second, that upon completion of his pre-professional course he will be admitted to the seminary. A considerable number of cases of this type have been handled by the secretary of the committee.

The committee has established contacts with Selective Service headquarters in Washington and is able through the National Service Board for Religious Ob-

(Continued on Page 4)

## Seminars Prepare for Drake Conference

In preparation for the conference on The Church and the New World Mind to be held at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, February 1-4, 1944, a series of seminars is being held in nine different sections of the nation. Each seminar will give detailed study to the theme of one of the lectures to be given in the conference and will bring to Des Moines a report with recommendations as to the actions the church should take with reference to the subject under discussion. The seminar areas, subjects, and leaders, are given below. Also is included the name of the person who will deliver the lecture on the subject at Des Moines.

Cincinnati-Lexington Area—"The Racial Issue and the Christian Church," Leslie R. Smith, leader. Miss Georgia Harkness, lecturer.

Chicago Area—"Education and Culture in a World of Peace," Harold L. Lunger, leader. Dr. W. E. Hocking, lecturer.

Richmond-Washington Area—"A Christian View of Latin-American Relationships," F. W. Burnham, leader. G. Baez Camargo, lecturer.

Indianapolis Area—"Toward Peace in the Orient," E. K. Higdon, leader. M. Searle Bates, lecturer.

Fort Worth - Dallas Area—"Religious Faith and World Order," M. E. Sadler, leader. Dr. W. E. Hocking, lecturer.

St. Louis Area—"How can the Church in America Work for Peace?" Clark Walter Cummings, leader. Walter W. Van Kirk, lecturer.

Los Angeles Area—"The Church, the Press and World Opinion," Don West, leader. Sir Wilmot Lewis, lecturer.

Enid, Okla., Area—"Christianity and Statesmanship," G. Edwin Osborn, leader. Dr. W. E. Hocking, lecturer.

Kansas City Area—"Peace Begins at Home," Harold Humbert, leader. Cleo Blackburn, lecturer.

Each seminar will present at Des Moines a 2500-word summary of its findings. It is expected that this summary will be made following the lecture on the subject assigned and will be part of the subject matter before the group for discussion. Each lecture and seminar report will be open for the fullest and freest discussion, but no findings or official report will be issued beyond the volume of lectures to be published. The Commission on World Order, of which Dr. Roger T. Nooe is chairman, has been requested by the Central Committee to prepare a pamphlet of materials of the conference as a resource and study guide for use in the churches of the brotherhood, but this will be a project separate and apart from the conference itself. It has also been proposed that following the conference a series of "Little Drake Conferences" be held in strategic centers throughout the brotherhood. No final action has yet been taken on this proposal, but it is being given favorable consideration.



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### The Brewers and the Tin Can Drive

From time to time reports have appeared in the press indicating that the federal government's drive to salvage tin was resulting in special concessions to brewers. In some cases housewives rebelled against going to the trouble to save tin cans under the impression that a considerable amount of the salvage was being assigned to the brewers. When recently an inquiry was received by the Department of Social Welfare and Rural Work from Mr. Rhodes Thompson, pastor of First Christian Church, Paris, Kentucky, the secretary took the matter up with Mr. Deets Pickett, research secretary of the Methodist Board of Temperance, Washington, D. C., asking for authoritative information on the subject. Mr. Pickett has been in Washington for many years and is thoroughly familiar with the personnel and operation of many of the government bureaus. Mr. Pickett kindly sent us a copy of the information which he furnished Mr. Thompson at our request.

"Our information from the government is to the effect that they agreed with the brewers that if they would collect salvage tin they would be permitted to keep for their own use all tin derived from gallon (and larger) containers. This, I believe, ran about ten percent. The government official with whom I talked said that since the manufacture of beer is permitted they would in the nature of the case be allotted new metal for bottle caps unless they were permitted to use salvage material and that the arrangement with them was not for the purpose of affording them material but rather for the purpose of using them for collection agencies.

"I think the fundamental flaw in the government's policy is that it permits the manufacture of beer under the present circumstances. It wastes not only metal but raw materials, labor, transportation, and probably the most serious waste is in transportation. Beer is a bulky commodity and the movement of approximately two billion gallons of beer by rail and truck is a serious misuse of transportation facilities."

For further facts about the manufacture of beer refer to September *News-Letter*, page 2, "The Facts About the So-Called 'Beer Famine.'"

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Plan now to observe Race Relations Sunday, February 13th. The Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y., has prepared a packet of materials containing a Message from the Federal Council, materials for speakers, worship programs for various groups, and a poster. Packets 6c each or \$4.50 per 100.

### Pastor Heads Juvenile Delinquency Commission

While juvenile court authorities, police officials, social workers, and many religious leaders are lamenting the tragic increase in juvenile delinquency, C. Wayne Parsons, minister of Central Christian Church, Sharon, Pennsylvania, is doing something about it. Young, Yale-trained Parsons is chairman of the Sharon Juvenile Delinquency Commission, composed of four pastors, a welfare worker, and an attorney to handle legal problems. Formed in March, 1943, the commission in the first two months of its existence investigated and studied some 60 cases of juvenile delinquency brought to its attention by the police and other agencies. The commission's purpose is primarily to discover the causes of juvenile delinquency and means of its prevention.

In its investigations the commission found that approximately two-thirds of the cases coming to its attention involved girls from 15 to 18 years of age. Most of these are described by members of the commission as "uniform chasers," meaning young girls who lose all sense of discretion through fascination for the uniformed men of the armed forces.

Delinquent boys whose cases come to the attention of the commission ranged in age from 13 to 16 years, and the majority of them were involved in petty thievery, malicious destruction of property, and kindred offenses.

In seeking the causes of delinquency the commission discovered that the home is chiefly responsible for anti-social attitudes on the part of children.

"A break-down in the home and lack of parental authority and responsibility have been the cause of all but one case we have investigated so far," said Mr. Parsons in a newspaper interview. "Instead of juvenile delinquency we could rightfully call the problem 'parental delinquency,'" he added. Among the contributing factors to the lack of parental authority are separation of parents, divorce, lack of proper environment, indifference, neglect, and indulgence. In one case where a 13-year-old boy was in difficulty because he was allowed to roam the streets without parental supervision, the boy, when questioned about his parents, said they were living together, "but not for long." Then he added, "They fight too much; they're never at home at night and they drink too much." In speaking of cases of this type, Mr. Parsons said, "There are many reasons why a child has no incentive to stay at home and that's the reason he takes to the street where there are many more things to attract his attention."

The mother of a 19-year-old girl whose case was before the commission, thought it quite all right for her daughter to leave home to go on hitch-hiking trips, said Mr. Parsons, while another mother complained to the commission that it is a shame to have a curfew "because it doesn't give the girls a chance to have fun with the soldiers."

In addition to the assumption of more responsibility by parents, the commission urges the establishment of child centers where children of working mothers can be given supervision and training.

The experience of the Sharon Juvenile Delinquency Commission serves to point out the causes of anti-social behavior in children as revealed in practically every other investigation of the problem made in recent years. The break-down of the home, lack of adequate guidance and supervision, and lack of adequate facilities for children whose parents are employed, constitutes the gist of the problem.



## On Social Frontiers

On May 15, 1943, the cost of living index, compiled by the U. S. Department of Labor, was 25.1 per cent higher than the average of the years 1935-1939, and 24.1 per cent above that of January 1, 1941, the base date for the so-called "Little Steel Formula," under which the War Labor Board has been attempting to enforce the fiction that wages must be held down to within 15 per cent of the January, 1941, level. The discrepancy between the WLB formula and the actual cost of living accounts for the increasing number of strikes and protest work stoppages due to wage disagreement. That and the fact that labor is well aware of the 39 billion dollar post-war reserves already accumulated by industry.

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And while we are on the subject of wages, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that there were 8,315,000 persons employed in the durable goods industries in the U. S. in August, 1943, half of them engaged in iron, steel and machinery production and transportation. The average weekly earnings of these workers was \$49.33, with automobile workers drawing the highest wage, \$57.10 per week, and lumber and timber workers the lowest, \$33.05. Of the 5,600,000 non-durable goods workers, petroleum and coal products workers received the highest wage, \$51.21 per week, and those engaged in tobacco manufacture the lowest, \$26.45, though clothing workers with \$26.67 per week were only a few cents ahead of them. The 70,200 anthracite coal miners drew an average of \$39.69 per week in July, 1943, and the 378,000 bituminous miners received an average of \$42.76 per week. The 93,300 metalliferous miners fared slightly better with average earnings of \$43.30. Evidence that high wages does not extend to all classes of labor is seen in the fact that hotel workers (including those on salary) averaged only \$20.18 per week. Power laundry workers averaged \$23.47.

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How necessary it is to scrutinize carefully news stories, editorials, cartoons and radio comments on strikes and labor disturbances is indicated by reports coming out of Mexico City regarding the strike of Mexican Pullman workers. Mexican workers for the Pullman Company went on strike in defiance of a law forbidding strikes for the duration. The facts behind the strike, as published by **Mexican Labor News**, are that these workers in 1932 voluntarily accepted a 25 per cent wage cut when the Pullman Company found itself in financial difficulties. When the Pullman Company later asked and secured from the Mexican government authority to raise rates 32 per cent no move was made to raise wages. When the exchange rate made it profitable to do so, the Pullman Company ceased to pay its workers in dollars and paid in pesos, thus causing further hardship. Most of these workers live in frontier areas where living standards have a dollar basis and where costs of living have materially increased since the war began. The strike grew out of the refusal of the Pullman Company to readjust its wage scale to the pre-1932 level.

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"Christian Youth in War-time, a Guide for Community Action," by Herbert L. Minard. Price 10c from the International Council of Religious Education, 203 North Wabash, Chicago 1, Illinois.

## Davison Denounces South Bend Slum Conditions

On Sunday morning, October 24, Frank E. Davison, pastor of the First Christian Church, South Bend, Indiana, entered his pulpit to denounce slum conditions existing in that city. South Bend, home of Studebaker automobiles and other industries, is a victim of war industrial expansion. To its industries have come thousands of workers from the South to fill to overflowing its already inadequate industrial housing area. As president of the Council of Churches, Mr. Davison and a group of ministers made a tour of the city to study housing conditions. In his address Mr. Davison said:

"For 15 years I lived in Chicago and was closely associated with social service work in that city, but I declare to you this morning that I never saw anything in Chicago that aroused my righteous indignation like that which I saw in our own city." Declaring that he found "unbelievable" conditions existing within "gunshot of this church," he said that in "a well known alley" he found a dilapidated barn, once used as a stable, now used as a residence by four families. "The building has a dirt floor and has been divided into four parts by rough boards. I am told that each family pays \$12 a month rent, the owner thus receiving \$48 a month for a shack that would not bring \$2 as a garage or stable. Not far from that place is a small court surrounded by rows of one-story shacks. In these ten or eleven shacks live 18 families and the owners receive, so I am informed from reliable sources, \$144 a month. . . . Places not large enough for two families house 8 or 10 families. Buildings that have been condemned are being inhabited by rats and human beings. At one place some 20 families are compelled to use one outside toilet. No wonder disease and death infest these places."

Mr. Davison made it clear that he believes the church has a responsibility in such a situation. "If political and economic interests are playing one pressure group against the other and using human souls as pawns on the chessboard of their own political ambitions and economic avarice, then the church of Jesus Christ needs to rise and declare that man is of more value than real estate or stocks and bonds. If our city government has become complacent in the face of conditions which they know must exist, or if they are indifferent to this great lurking danger which threatens the health, life and good name of our city, then the church must take up the role of the prophet and put the fear of God in the hearts of those who sit in high places." Mr. Davison pointed out that if the F. H. A., which has done such effective work in other cities, has gone to sleep in South Bend, the churches should assume responsibility for awakening the local committee to its task and give them the backing they need for their work.

Throughout the 35 years of his ministry Mr. Davison has been prominent as an exponent of social Christianity. He was a director of the Board of Temperance and Social Welfare until it was merged with The United Christian Missionary Society in 1935 and has since been a member of the board of trustees of that organization. To those who attend the International Convention he is well known as the man who arranges the convention's great communion service.

South Bend newspapers gave front page publicity to the sermon and Mr. Davison reports an encouraging response from citizens.



## Church Council Defends Citizens of Japanese Ancestry

Under the caption of "Hate is Moral Poison!" the Colorado Council of Churches, through its Commission on Resettlement of Japanese-Americans, has issued a statement setting forth the facts discovered in an investigation of the situation. Colorado churches are directly interested because a large number of Japanese-Americans have been re-located in that state and because Denver is the nearest large center east of the Rockies to several of the Relocation Centers.

The statement, signed by the Rev. Willard Spence, chairman of the Commission, declares that in spite of widely publicized charges, facts tend to prove that the "carloads of bacon" for the Granada Center never arrived there; that Frigidaires (a stock propaganda issue) have never been given to internees; that the "high salaries" alleged to be paid to evacuees have never reached the \$20 per month level; that in spite of evidence given to the Commission that Japanese-Americans were placed in Relocation Centers because of "sabotage," a Congressional investigating committee has been unable to discover a single case of sabotage among these people.

What the Commission did find was:

1. All food sent to Relocation centers is approved by the Quartermaster Corps of the Army.

2. Food supplies are requisitioned for 100 days at a time, which necessarily involves storing relatively large supplies in camps where there may be as many as 10,000 evacuees.

3. In each Center all evacuees are fed in a central dining hall. Food is requisitioned from the camp quartermaster on a day-to-day basis by the steward, who is a Caucasian and a governmental employee.

4. Meals are rationed on the same basis as for civilians throughout the nation. Says the Commission, "It is quite possible that through lack of space, food has been stored in attics of mess halls instead of warehouses. This . . . has brought about adverse criticism of the Japanese evacuees, who, in reality, have no administrative power, and practically no control over such situations."

5. Relocation Centers are located on barren waste lands with conditions that make a normal home life almost impossible, the proper training of children most difficult, and normal social relations between young men and women, boys and girls, difficult to maintain.

6. "The matter of mis-administration of food does not seem to us to be the primary issue. The Japanese-Americans would like their 'freedom.' . . . The WRA is resettling Japanese-Americans over widely scattered areas, mostly to the east of Colorado. A thorough record of each individual is kept and releases are made only to those who are considered loyal American citizens, after clearing with the FBI."

7. Charges that evacuees have refused to accept preferred work have caused employers to cancel offers of employment made to the Manpower Commission. The Colorado Commission found that "it is only natural that the evacuees may be reluctant to accept work in communities that might be swayed by this adverse propaganda," and that this same propaganda makes employers hesitant to take on Japanese-Americans.

8. The Commission found that two-thirds of the evacuees are young American citizens and that more than half are professing Christians. Thousands of them have gone into the armed forces to fight for the democratic way of life.

## Committee on Ministerial (Continued)

jectors, with which it has connections, to secure personal assistance in handling appeal cases. Its services are available to young men expecting to enter the ministry, to pastors who are called upon for advice and assistance in securing deferment or exemption for ministerial students, and to state secretaries and others. The committee stresses the fact that its services are available only to bona-fide ministers of the gospel and those sincerely intending to dedicate their lives to the Christian ministry. Every case will be thoroughly investigated and assistance rendered only to those whose standing is unquestioned.

## Important Social Legislation Now Pending in Congress

Among the more important bills dealing with social issues now pending in Congress are the following. Letters and telegrams expressing convictions of constituents will be welcomed by Senators and Representatives. All communications should be addressed to the Senator or Member of Congress, at the Senate or House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

*The Anti-Poll Tax Bill.* (HR. 7). Passed by the House and favorably reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Has wide support both North and South, but consideration on the floor of the Senate may be blocked by threat of Senator Bilbo (Miss.) of a filibuster.

*Labor Conscription for 4-F's.* (HR. 3556). Introduced by Clare Booth Luce (Conn.) to conscript men classified 4-F by Army into auxiliary labor. Wages at prevailing rates, but Army pay to men, balance into U. S. treasury. Conscript labor legislation.

*Religious and Charities Contributions Deduction Bill.* (HR. 3472). The 1943 tax law does not permit deduction of gifts to religious or charitable causes until final installment of tax is paid. This seriously affects contributions to churches, social agencies and other worthy causes. HR. 3472 would permit payroll deductions and deductions as quarterly tax payments are made. Letters to Hon. Robert L. Doughton, Chairman House Ways and Means Committee. Hon. Bertrand W. Gearhart (California), speaking before the House on Nov. 1st said that the national income has increased 155% over 1928, but that Americans in 1942 gave only 68% as much to the church as they did in that year. He predicted a further decrease for 1943 unless this Bill is passed.

*Conscription of Women and Labor.* (S. 666, HR. 1742). Known as the "Austin-Wadsworth Bill," would conscript both women and labor for war industries, where they would work for private employers. Said to be dead for the duration, but some high officials still want it. Labor opposes. "The issue is clear—free labor versus slave labor."

*Permanent Conscription Bill.* (S. 701, HR. 1806). The "Gurney-Wadsworth Bill." Inactive at present. Provides for a permanent system of compulsory military service for the U. S. It is believed that proponents will either revive the Bill or move to have present Selective Service law (which expires May 15, 1945) made permanent. Senator Wadsworth has long been an advocate of compulsory military service in peacetime and can be relied upon to force the issue when he thinks the time appropriate.

Get your church ready for the Drake Conference by organizing a study group on post-war world order, using "Six Pillars of Peace." Order from The United Christian Missionary Society, 222 S. Downey, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.